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The Director of Central Intelligence

Washington, D.C. 20505

NIC 03109-84

29 May 1984

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

VIA: National Intelligence Officer for Warning

FROM: [REDACTED]
National Intelligence Officer for NESA

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SUBJECT: Forecasting and Warning Meeting Report, 24 May 1984

1. Iran-Iraq War. CIA led the discussion and noted that the Iraqis are probably pleased by the course of recent events and will not be deterred by Iranian retaliation. The Iraqi attacks have had some effect on Iranian oil exports although at this time it is difficult to say precisely how much Iranian exports have been curtailed.

In contrast to last month's meeting--when community analysts generally agreed that the major Iranian offensive might well be postponed to the fall--most analysts now see signs that the offensive may take place shortly--perhaps to coincide with Ramadan--although all agreed that the Iranians still face logistical and other problems. There was agreement that, under most conditions, Iraq should be able to contain an Iranian offensive around Basra.

Community analysts agreed that prospects for an Iranian-Saudi air clash are high. There is considerable evidence that the Saudi air force is eager to take on the Iranians but the political leadership is holding back. Most analysts agreed that Saudi capabilities in the air exceed those of Iran and, if given enough warning, the Saudis probably could fend off Iranian air attacks.

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2. Libya: Internal Problems. (Because of a lengthy discussion on Iran-Iraq, we were forced to limit discussion on both Libya and Sri Lanka.)

State/INR reviewed the past couple of months of internal unrest in Libya and offered some remarks on the implications of these events. The INR analyst concluded that the evidence as of now is too weak to support a conclusion that unrest has reached a stage where it threatens Qadhafi, although there is little question that unrest stirred by the exiles is on the increase. Qadhafi is concerned and will lash out at the exiles. But the extent of the unrest in the military remains to be seen.

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The regional impact of recent events in Libya was also discussed.

[REDACTED] there are signs that the Algerians are concerned about Tunisian-Libyan relations and are moving to establish closer ties with Tunisia, particularly in intelligence and military fields. We will probably see a much closer Algerian-Tunisian relationship in coming months.

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3. Sri Lanka. DIA noted that the APC conference is unlikely to produce a compromise or reduce ethnic tensions. The government instead seems to be concentrating on improving its security services to deal with future unrest. Potential for further communal unrest is high, but it will be difficult for us to predict precisely when such outbreaks might occur.

DIA offered some remarks on the implications of the Allen kidnapping and release. Mrs. Gandhi's insistence on the release was a

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major factor in ending the kidnapping situation. The Tamil insurgents are not likely to launch further attacks on US targets--although analysts agreed that President Jayewardene's upcoming visit to the US might well spark some anti-US actions by Tamil terrorists--and will probably return to attacks on Sinhalese and Sri Lankan government officials. In general, analysts agreed that it is unlikely that the Allen kidnapping signals the beginning of a Tamil-instigated terrorist campaign against US targets. Analysts also agreed that the US decision to agree to an Israeli interests section in the US embassy in Sri Lanka is unlikely to heighten anti-US feeling in Sri Lanka.

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